



REGULAR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013 - 7:00 P.M.

Community Meeting Chambers, Los Altos City Hall
One North San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Members of the audience may bring to the Commission's attention any item that is not on the agenda. Please complete a "Request to Speak" form and submit it to the Staff Liaison. Speakers are generally given two or three minutes, at the discretion of the Chair. Please be advised that, by law, the Commission is unable to discuss or take action on issues presented during the Public Comment Period. According to State Law (also known as "the Brown Act") items must first be noticed on the agenda before any discussion or action.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Commission Minutes
Approval of minutes – Regular Meeting of December 10, 2012
2. Climate Action Plan
 - a. Receive update on Climate Action Plan (CAP)
 - b. Receive presentation and suggest next steps for usage of proposed greenhouse gas (GHG) dashboard
3. Environmental Public Information Forums
Review and discuss opportunities, topics and methodology for public education and outreach
4. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Single-Use Bags
 - a. Receive staff report presented to City Council on January 8, 2013
 - b. Discuss report and provide suggestions for involvement of Environmental Commission with staff on activities for community outreach and education

5. Environmental Commission Website
Receive update on website activity and discuss potential items to add to site
6. Environmental Commission Work Plan Progress Review
Review and discuss progress on 2012-2013 Work Plan
7. Environmental Commission Report to Council at Joint Meeting
Prepare report on 2012-2013 Achievements
8. 2013 City Council Meeting Calendar
Review and assign Commissioner's attendance at 2013 Council meetings

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9. Increasing Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos
Staff update on watershed signage on creek projects
10. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
Receive update on potential charging station program
11. Staff Report
Environmental Sustainability Report presented at Council Retreat on Jan. 12, 2013

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

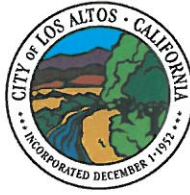
SPECIAL NOTICES TO PUBLIC

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Altos will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (650) 947-2720.

Agendas, Staff Reports and some associated documents for the Environmental Commission items may be viewed on the Internet at <http://losaltosca.gov/committees-commissions/environmental/meetings.html>

If you wish to provide written materials, please provide the Commission Staff Liaison with **10 copies** of any document that you would like to submit to the Commissioners in order for it to become part of the public record.

For other questions regarding the meeting proceedings, please contact the City Clerk at (650) 947-2720.



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 1

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Commission Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve minutes from the December 10, 2013 Regular Environmental Commission Meeting

BACKGROUND

The City of Los Altos Commission and Committee Handbook provides the following guidance with respect minutes of Commission meetings.

Written minutes of all regular and special meetings of Commissions/Committees must be kept as the official record of business transacted and are taken by a staff member or the Secretary to the advisory body. Minutes are modeled after the City Council form of minutes. That form includes a brief summary of a discussion and should contain mainly a record of the legislative actions from the meeting. They should not include what is said by individual commission members, or members of the public. Minutes of a Public Hearing list only the names of the individuals who spoke.

Minutes are approved at the next regular meeting of the body and become the official record of its business. Any corrections to the minutes may be made in public meetings, with approval of the majority of the body. Copies of the minutes are to be filed with the City Clerk for transmittal to the City Council, and posted on the City's website.

If a member of the public submits a document to the body during a meeting, he/she should provide the staff liaison with 10 copies in order for it to become part of the public record. The staff liaison should make a notation on the document of the date it was submitted and file it with the meeting packet. The retention for packets is ten years.

DISCUSSION

The Council records minutes in the form that is known as "action minutes." This means that only the legislative action is recorded. For example, who made the motion, who seconded the motion, what was moved and seconded, and the vote. The December 10, 2013 minutes are submitted for review and approval.

Attachments:

1. Minutes of the December 10, 2013 Regular Environmental Commission

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012 AT
7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD,
LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA**

ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT: Bray, Eyre, DeMichiel, Keller, Reed, Hedden

ABSENT: Ardehali

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Update by City Manager Marcia Somers on Commission procedures and protocols

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/ACTION

1. Commission Minutes
MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HEDDEN to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2012. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
2. Climate Action Plan
 - a. Accepted presentation of Climate Action Plan study by Consulting Firm PMC
 - b. Review and discussion of results of the community Climate Action Plan survey
3. Environmental Public Information Forums
Review and discussion of opportunities, topics and methodology for public education and outreach
4. Bird Protection and Habitat Enhancement in the City of Los Altos
Review and discussion with no further action on this topic
5. Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Single-Use Bags
Received status update on Environmental Impact Report for single-use bags and expanded polystyrene

6. Environmental Commission Website
Received update on website activity and discuss potential items to add to site
7. Environmental Commission Work Plan
Review and discussion on progress on 2012/13 Work Plan
8. 2013 City Council meeting calendar
Review and assigned Commissioner attendance at 2013 Council meetings

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

9. Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos
Received update on watershed signage on creek projects
10. Cal Water Usage Data
Received summary report on Dashboard for water data usage
11. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
Received update on potential public EV charging station program
12. Monthly staff report
Received information and announcements from City staff

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bray adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 2

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Climate Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Receive update on Climate Action Plan (CAP)
 - B. Receive presentation and suggest next steps for usage of proposed greenhouse gas (GHG) dashboard
-

BACKGROUND

Los Altos Climate Action Plan - State Assembly Bill 32 requires public agencies in California to implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to year 1990 levels by 2020. While the great majority of this responsibility rests with the State and regional air quality boards, cities also need to have a plan in place that addresses carbon emissions when planning for programs and facilities and when issuing permits. A Climate Action Plan (CAP) is the policy document that provides the framework to achieve those goals. As part of the FY 2011/12 budget, the City Council approved a staff-initiated capital project to prepare a CAP. On November 8, 2011, the City Council awarded Pacific Municipal Consultants (PMC) with a contract to prepare a CAP for the City of Los Altos.

Over the past nine months, staff has been working with PMC and the Environmental Commission (EC) to prepare the CAP. This includes preparation of an inventory of the City's existing GHG emissions (both for municipal operations and community-wide), a calculation of the City's anticipated emissions into the future, a summary of State legislation and how it will reduce City emissions, and an evaluation of how existing City policies (Green Building Ordinance, waste diversion, Bike Master Plan, etc.) are also reducing City emissions. In March 2013, staff will be providing Council with a preliminary draft of the CAP and an outline of the range of policies that can be used to achieve compliance with AB 32.

DISCUSSION

The next CAP presentation from PMC is scheduled for the February Environmental Commission meeting.

Currently, staff is working with PMC to develop an outline of the goals, policies and programs that will be needed in order to achieve the minimum 15% GHG reduction target (compliance with AB 32, referred to as Tier 1), a stretch target of 20%-25% GHG reductions (Tier 2) and project level

best management practices (BMPs) that will could be used for new development to comply with the City's CAP. This outline will be the starting point for the discussion with the public, EC and Council for honing in on the suite of measures that the City implements as part of the CAP.

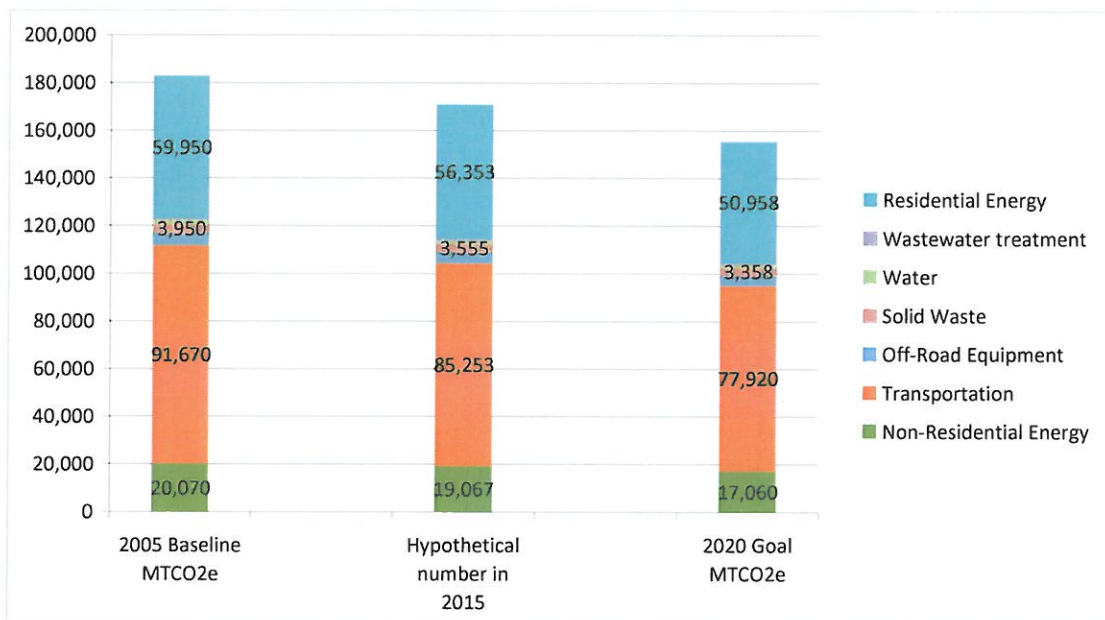
The Environmental Commission CAP sub-committee member, Vice-Chair Eyre, developed a proposed GHG Dashboard for presentation to the Commission and for discussion of suggestions for use. The proposed usage of the dashboard is to have the dashboard on the EC website to provide status of the environmental progress of Los Altos as time goes on. The dashboard would probably have past usage, trends, and goals for water, natural gas, electric use, waste diversion, vehicle miles traveled, GHG emissions and other pertinent data.

Attachments:

1. GHG Proposed Dashboard

Proposed Dashboard 1/10/13

The Dashboard would contain a summary graph like the one below and then more specific ones for each of the components of GHG production, such as natural gas or water.



Background data (not on dashboard)

Sector	2005 Baseline MTCO ₂ e	Hypothetical number in 2015	2020 Goal MTCO ₂ e
Residential Energy	59,950	56,353	50,958 (hypothetical)
Natural Gas	(need #'s)	(need #'s)	
Electric	(need #'s)	(need #'s)	
Non-Residential Energy	20,070	19,067	17,060 (hypothetical)
Natural Gas	(need #'s)	(need #'s)	
Electric	(need #'s)	(need #'s)	
Transportation	91,670	85,253	77,920 (hypothetical)
Off-Road Equipment	4,940	4,495	4,199 (hypothetical)
Solid Waste	3,950	3,555	3,358 (hypothetical)
Water	1,580	1,438	1,343 (hypothetical)
Wastewater treatment	670	630	570 (hypothetical)
BAU		199,070	
State Mandated Reductions		-28,150	
Local reductions		-3,280	
BAU Net after reductions		167,640	
% change from 2005		-8.3%	
2020 GHG's if 15% reduction goal	182,830	170,791	155,406 -15.0%
Necessary reduction from Los Altos CAP			-12,235 -6.7%
Policy & Programs			



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Environmental Public Information Forums

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss opportunities, topics and methodology for public education and outreach

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission Work Plan, Goal 1, is to provide approved community education outreach activities to advance natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos.

The Commission determines topics and opportunities for approved public forums related to sustainability. An example of public outreach activities were public forums held prior to the award of the waste disposal contract and a study to determine both Municipal and Community Green House Gas emissions for the City. Current outreach efforts include the design and analysis of a survey to the community to facilitate and gain public input for the Los Altos Climate Action Plan and coordination with the Climate Action Plan consultant firm and with Community Development staff. An additional topic is single-use bags and issues involved with polystyrene products.

DISCUSSION

The Environmental Commission is continuing discussion regarding community education and outreach activities.

To that goal, a Commission subcommittee is exploring topic ideas and approaches on additional ways to engage the public via education and information forums, various outreach mechanisms. The subcommittee will guide this discussion.



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 4

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Disposal and Management of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) and Single-Use Bags

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Receive staff report presented to City Council on January 8, 2013
 - B. Discuss report and provide suggestions for involvement of Environmental Commission with staff on activities for community outreach and education
-

BACKGROUND

The issue of restrictions on single use bags and polystyrene foam food containers was presented the City Council as a strategy to help mitigate effects of litter in stormwater. On January 10, 2012, the City Council authorized staff to submit the City of Los Altos' Baseline Trash Load and Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan to the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board. This Plan lists trash control measures that the City of Los Altos will need to implement in order to reduce the City's trash loads 40% by July 2014 as required by the Municipal Regional Stormwater Discharge NPDES Permit (MRP). Two such control measures include prohibiting dispensing single use plastic bags at the checkout stands of retail establishments and prohibiting the use of polystyrene foam food containers at food service facilities.

On April 10, 2012, Council directed staff to participate in San Mateo County's collaborative regional effort to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that includes a proposed ordinance for reusable bags.

DISCUSSION

At the January 8, 2013 Council meeting, council took action on staff recommendations as follows:

Recommendation to:

- A. Direct staff to prepare ordinances for reusable bags and polystyrene food containers
DIRECTED STAFF TO PREPARE ORDINANCES
- B. Appropriate \$30,000 from the Solid Waste Fund for implementation of the ordinances
DIRECTED STAFF TO REPORT ON PROPOSED USE OF \$30,000

The Environmental Commission has been engaged in following the activities of the San Mateo Environmental Impact Report public hearings and reports in which the City of Los Altos was a

participating member and in outreach activities to the community to promote the use of re-usage bags and restrain the use of single use bags.

At the January 22, 2013 Council Meeting, staff will present the proposed ordinance for reusable bags and polystyrene food containers.

Environmental Commission may want to discuss the staff report and provide suggestions to staff for involvement of Environmental Commission with staff on activities for community outreach and education.

Attachments:

1. Single Use Plastic Bags and Polystyrene Containers staff report - January 8, 2013



DATE: January 8, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 7

TO: City Council

FROM: Larry Lind, Senior Engineer

SUBJECT: Single Use Plastic Bags and Polystyrene Containers

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Direct staff to prepare ordinances for reusable bags and polystyrene food containers
 - B. Appropriate \$30,000 from the Solid Waste Fund for implementation of the ordinances
-

SUMMARY:

Estimated Fiscal Impact:

Amount: \$30,000

Budgeted: No, Solid Waste Fund

Public Hearing Notice: None

Previous Council Consideration: January 10, 2012 and April 10, 2012

CEQA Status: Environmental Impact Report completed for reusable bags. To be determined for polystyrene foam food containers.

Attachments: None

BACKGROUND

This item is brought to the City Council as a strategy to help mitigate effects of litter in stormwater. On January 10, 2012, the City Council authorized staff to submit the City of Los Altos' Baseline Trash Load and Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan to the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board. This Plan lists trash control measures that the City of Los Altos will need to implement in order to reduce the City's trash loads 40% by July 2014 as required by the Municipal Regional Stormwater Discharge NPDES Permit (MRP). Two such control measures include prohibiting dispensing single use plastic bags at the checkout stands of retail establishments and prohibiting the use of polystyrene foam food containers at food service facilities.

On April 10, 2012, Council directed staff to participate in San Mateo County's collaborative regional effort to complete an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that includes a proposed ordinance for reusable bags.

DISCUSSION

Reusable Bags: Last spring San Mateo County (County) invited cities within the County, as well as cities in Santa Clara County, to participate in the regional effort to study the environmental impacts of a regional reusable bag ordinance. Eighteen cities in the County and six cities in Santa Clara County made up the final program EIR "Study Area." These cities joined the County for a program-level environmental review studying the region-wide environmental impacts of a reusable bag ordinance.

The County prepared a model ordinance for the participating cities to utilize for adoption in their respective jurisdictions. The intent of the ordinance is to reduce the environmental impacts related to the use of single-use carryout bags and to promote a shift toward the use of reusable bags. The model ordinance would regulate the use and distribution of paper and plastic single-use carryout bags by all retail establishments.

The model ordinance would: (1) prohibit the free distribution of single-use carryout paper and plastic bags; and (2) require retail establishments to charge customers for recycled paper bags and reusable bags at the point of sale. A single-use plastic carryout bag is defined as a bag made from petroleum or bio-based plastic that is less than 2.25 mils (0.00225 inches) thick. The model ordinance does not prohibit the distribution of product bags, which are bags without handles provided to the customer to transport food from a department within a grocery store to the point of sale, to hold prescription medication dispensed from a pharmacy, or to segregate food or merchandise that could damage or contaminate other food or merchandise.

The County's final EIR examined the potential environmental impacts associated with the adoption of the model ordinance in the Study Area. The Draft EIR was issued with a 45-day public review period, from June 22, 2012 to August 6, 2012. The Final EIR, which incorporated the Draft EIR by reference, as well as responses to comments received regarding the Draft EIR, was issued with a 10-day public review period August 31, 2012 to September 10, 2012. The County (Draft and Final Program) EIR can be viewed online at <http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/portal/site/planning>. A hard copy is also available for review at City Hall.

The Final EIR estimated the volume of current plastic bag usage within the Study Area at 552 million bags per year. With the Model ordinance regulations in effect, it is anticipated that 95% of that volume would be replaced with a combination of paper (approximately 166 million) and reusable (approximately 7 million) bags, leaving 27 million plastic bags still used each year. The final EIR identified and analyzed the potential environmental impacts of such a shift in bag usage and found no impact requiring mitigation because they all have beneficial or less than significant impacts.

The County Board of Supervisors certified the final EIR on November 6, 2012. For this regional effort, the County acted as the lead agency for preparation and approval of the EIR. The participating municipalities are listed as responsible agencies, as each individual municipality will have discretionary approval over the proposed ordinance within its respective jurisdiction. A responsible agency refers to a public agency other than the lead agency that has discretionary approval over a project. Accordingly, the City of Los Altos can rely on the County's EIR and analysis of environmental impact should Council direct staff to begin the preparation of its own Ordinance. Therefore a separate EIR will not be needed.

Of the cities that were included in the EIR, South San Francisco, Belmont, Daly City, Colma, Pacifica, Portola Valley, Foster City and Mountain View have since adopted a reusable bag ordinance. The cities of Menlo Park, Woodside, San Carlos, Half Moon Bay and Cupertino will consider adopting their ordinances during the month of January. All of these cities, including the County of San Mateo have designated the effective date of their ordinances to be April 22, 2013.

Polystyrene Foam Food Containers: An ordinance that would prohibit the use of polystyrene foam food containers is another control measure that, if adopted, would help the City of Los Altos to comply with the trash reduction requirement. Cities in the Bay Area that have adopted polystyrene ordinances, such as Palo Alto, prepared an Initial Study that did not identify any potentially significant impact and, therefore, adopted a negative declaration under CEQA.

It is recommended to proceed with preparation of an ordinance that would prohibit the use of polystyrene food containers. It is anticipated that this ordinance will be modeled after the ordinance that went into effect in Palo Alto on April 22, 2010. That ordinance restricts food vendors from providing prepared food in disposable food service containers made from expanded polystyrene or nonrecyclable plastic. Food vendors are defined as retail food vendors, cafeterias, sidewalk and outdoor food vendors, food vehicles and caterers. This ordinance would also apply to City facilities, City-managed concessions, City-sponsored events and City-permitted events.

Ordinance Timetable: Should Council approve the recommendations, it is anticipated that a draft reusable bag ordinance will be brought to Council by March 2013 after conducting the necessary outreach to the impacted businesses and the public. Should the ordinance be adopted staff would propose an effective date by June 30, 2012.

Staff anticipates returning to Council by early summer with a draft ordinance prohibiting the use of polystyrene. This would allow sufficient time to prepare an Initial Study and to file a negative declaration under CEQA and conduct outreach on the proposed draft ordinance as enacted. Staff has had initial discussions with several other cities that are planning the same ordinance regarding forming a joint CEQA effort.

Los Altos Environmental Commission: This effort is consistent with the Environmental Commission (EC) FY2012/13 Work Plan Objective 6.a. This objective was for the Environmental Commission to engage in ongoing analysis of program and implementation options restricting use of expanded polystyrene and single use plastic bags. The EC formed a subcommittee to receive reports and hear presentations on the management of EPS and single use plastic bags. This included receiving information and reports on the progress of the San Mateo EIR study and recommendations. The EC supports the final conclusions of the EIR, but have recommended a quicker implementation of both of these ordinances. Staff believes that the schedule proposed by the ordinance is necessary to provide adequate business and public outreach prior to introducing the reusable bag ordinance and for completing the necessary CEQA document and outreach prior to introducing the polystyrene ordinance.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated cost for implementation of these two ordinances is \$30,000. The funds will cover consultant costs to assist staff in the preparation and distribution of educational and outreach materials, conduct stakeholder meetings and assist businesses with implementation, and will also fund incidental costs for advertising, printing and mailing of notices and outreach material. Adequate funds are available in the City's Solid Waste Fund. This is the proper source of funding since both of these measures are integrated waste management actions that are recommended by the Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County. The reusable bag ordinance will reduce waste and the EPS ban will prohibit the use of packaging that is not at all recyclable.

Evaluation of the fiscal impact for enforcement of these two ordinances will be included with the introduction of each ordinance.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Posting of the meeting agenda serves as notice to the general public.



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 5

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Website

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive update on website activity and discuss potential items to add to site

BACKGROUND

The Commission redesigned and reorganized the content in the Environmental Commission website on the City's commission webpage. Knowing that a major redesign of the City site was planned, the Commission undertook this project as a temporary solution with the expectation that the Environmental website will be blended under the City site once the site is constructed. The introductory statement on the Commission website states the purpose as:

The City of Los Altos Environmental Commission has designed this site to inform and educate the community about local programs and initiatives that support the environment and to provide information about resources available throughout Santa Clara County and the Bay Area.

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions please feel free to contact environmental@losaltosca.gov. Enjoy!

The Environmental Commission seeks to maintain the website with relevant, high-value content, in a manner that is visually pleasing, navigates well, and ties into the City website. The Commission monitors website hits and has seen an increase of viewership during the year. Website content areas are:

- Recycling
- Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Greening an Event
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Green Building

Alternatives in Transportation
Water Conservation
Storm Water Protection
Sustainable Eating
Landscaping with Native Plants
Tree Protection
Local Creeks
About the Commission
City of Los Altos

DISCUSSION

Staff will provide the number of hits to the Environmental Commission website for the month and cumulative for the year. The Commission may discuss potential items to add to the website to support staff activities and Council policies. Examples are information relative to the Climate Action Plan and the activities related to single-use bags and polystyrene issues.



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 6

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Work Plan Progress Review

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss progress on 2012-2013 Work Plan

BACKGROUND

The Environmental Commission's 2012 Work Plan was approved by Council and addressed sustainability programs in: 1) natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos; 2) Climate Action Plan (CAP); 3) watershed stewardship; 4) water conservation; 5) solid waste diversion and source reduction practices; 6) restriction of use of selected environmentally harmful products and other Council goals as directed.

DISCUSSION

The Environmental Commission will review and discuss the updated January 2013 Work Plan and take action as necessary.

Attachments:

1. Los Altos Environmental Commission – Work Plan 2012-2013 – January 14, 2013 updates

Los Altos Environmental Commission – Workplan 2012-13 – January 14, 2013 updates **Approved Projects & Projects for Approval**

Goals approved by City Council April, 2012 Projects 2012-2013, updated 1/3/13		Goals -- Progress Updates
1	Provide approved community education and outreach activities to advance natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos. (Linda DeMichiel, Zahra Ardehali,)	
a.	Maintain updated 'Los Altos Environment' website with relevant, high-value content, in a manner that is visually pleasing, navigates well, and ties into the city website. (Owner: Linda)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zahra to draft hazardous materials page for EC website - CAP documents, survey results, etc., should be included in a new website tab on the EC website – Zach/staff to post. - Joe will explore development of a 'Birds' page on EC website - 'Sustainable Eating' page now published on website - City is redoing overall website; Aha selected as the web design vendor - Periodic reviews and updates to site content, news items on main landing page, and staff-provided website traffic statistics; regular item on EC meeting agenda; traffic of 214 since 10/1, ~1810+ ytd.
b.	Provide approved public information forums for topics of interest to the public. (e.g. Climate Action Plan) (Owner: TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John and Zahra will draft topic ideas and approach per discussion at October meeting on additional ways to engage the public via education/ information forums, various outreach mechanisms, and possible topics. Ideas discussed included general CAP topics, recycling and waste reduction, composting, food/organics - Conduct forums, receive reports, etc. when there are specific opportunities related to city programs or policies. One upcoming opportunity will be for interim review and public input to Climate Action Plan development process.
2	Work with Planning Services Manager and city residents to develop Climate Action Plan for City Los Altos. (Joe Eyre, Don Bray, TBD)	
a.	Aid in developing, reviewing, and facilitating public input to a Los Altos Climate Action Plan (Owner: Joe, Don, Gary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City staff (Zach) will work with PMC to establish schedule of activities going forward, including key interaction points with EC, possibly City Council; EC sub-committee to meet with Zach/PMC - CAP sub-team (Joe, Gary, Don) analyzed and presented energy/water/transportation community survey results, key findings at December meeting; Zach/staff to distribute presentation via email to community participants - Based on EC input from December meeting, PMC to look analyze 15% reduction from 2005 baseline target, and what it would take to reach a higher 'stretch goal', e.g. 25% - PMC/staff presented updated 2005 muni and community GHG inventories, and inventory

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> projections for 2020 and 2035; assuming a 15% reduction from 2005 baseline, 2020 target emissions would be ~157,000 MTCO₂e. Adjusted 2020 'Business as Usual' emissions estimated at ~172,000 MTCO₂e, so CAP initiatives need to generate ~15,000 MTCO₂e in additional reductions. Survey open through August; email address field added so that summary of results may be sent to participants At joint session, Council and EC discussed the question of the scope of the CAP vs an Environmental or Sustainability element in the General plan; agreement that potential scope additions would have to be identified and addressed after the CAP takes shape. Work on the CAP began in March, with presentation of the project plan to EC and City Staff by the City's Planning Services Manager, and consultant PMC; EC providing GHG inventory data to PMC The role of the Environmental Commission will be to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide input and policy recommendations on reduction targets, reduction measures, and 'level of ambition' identify issues and opportunities and evaluate feasibility provide a forum for community participation
3	<p>Improve watershed stewardship for the City of Los Altos (Joe Eyre, Zahra Ardehail)</p> <p>a. Investigate potential education and outreach, and best practices associated with watershed awareness and protection, and identify near-term actions for implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved creek habitats storm water & runoff <p>(Owner: Joe, Zahra)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re status Fremont Ave bridge over Permanente Creek, 'prevailing thinking' is that name of the creek will be on bridge signage, possibly mounted on railing, though not yet designed. J will bring signage recommendation from 'draft final submittal' to EC for review/input. CEQA finished, waiting for consultant to present design. City Economic Dev Manager working on signage and 'Placemaking' – related in some way? Architectural/planning commission review? Likely assignment of council consideration in Sept/October timeframe for Storm Drain Master Plan (to be released by the end of the year) and provisions for implementation of standard labeling at storm drain inlets 'NO DUMPING! - Only Rain Down the Drain – Flows to xxxx Creek'. Can it be validated that this labeling will be broadly implemented? Are there pros/cons/constraints? Advance city storm drain labeling, incorporation of recently establish standards Investigate development and implementation of creek signage, with possible initial focus on new Fremont Road bridge over Permanente Creek Continue to support creek restoration activities and education, information on EC website

	<p>b. High-level review of selected city policies, practices, & implementation w/ watershed stewardship, to identify potential opportunity areas (Owner: Joe)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City engineering staff to present new study data on watershed and water quality to EC at October meeting – item DEFERRED due to staffing changes. - E.g. selected muni guidelines for native landscaping, organic fertilizers/herbicides/pesticides Joe met with Damon (city staff); city doing progressive things. - SCVWD guidelines and standards for land use near streams – Joe reported that these are in place and being utilized by the city; creek testing done every eight years or so as part of Santa Clara County runoff and pollution protection program.
4	<p>Continue to foster water conservation in Los Altos (Joe Eyre, Zahra Ardehail)</p>	
	<p>a. Work with Cal Water to develop detailed Los Altos water usage baseline and trends, and ongoing process for tracking. (Owner: Joe)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with CalWater, City Staff and others to develop and present water use baseline, recent trends; General trend toward reduced water use. Joe led dashboard ideas discussion at October meeting, for posting on EC website/incorporated with climate action plan management; Joe will draft a proposed one-page water dashboard for further discussion, and possible incorporation with broader dashboard metrics developed in association with CAP goals/results.
	<p>b. Incorporate water conservation plans into broader Climate Action Plan above. (Owner: Linda)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - leveraging water baseline developed above, incorporate specific water efficiency measures into Climate Action Plan.
	<p>c. Continue to actively support community outreach and education activities related to water conservation (Owner: Zahra)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional co-sponsorship of CalWater conservation classes - Promotion of such elements as SCVWD rebates (landscape conversion and hardware upgrades), weather-based irrigation controllers in muni and residential applications
5	<p>Monitor and advance solid waste diversion and source reduction practices in Los Altos. (Don Bray, Joe Eyre, John Reed)</p>	
	<p>a. Monitor MTWS diversion rate and look for ways to help meet and exceed contracted 78% diversion rate in 2013; make results available to community, along w/ education on how they can help improve outcomes. (Owner: Steve, Don)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall diversion rate of 71.44% for calendar year 2011; need to achieve 78% in 2013; in 2011, estimate diversion rate for single family residential at 81% (75% of overall tonnage), commercial at 39% (23% of tonnage), and multi-unit residential at 52% (2% of tonnage). - Publication of 2011 results, and 'leading practices' article featuring top business/commercial participants in Los Altos; Feb 2012 - Discussed possible development of a news article featuring waste management efforts at leading local businesses – to highlight 'best practice' examples, and educate the public and other businesses; Provided input & review for article developed by

		<p>GreenTown, published in Town Crier (September 2012).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational visit to Newby Island conducted with EC, staff, council, community participants; learned about 85-day composting process, and issues with certain items such as compostable tableware that requires substantially longer than 85 days to compost; also, some biodegradable foodscrap bags contain GMOs, so all such bags are placed in the garbage stream; - Joe working with Teresa and GTLA on 'best practices' guide for what is best introduced to organics stream to fully enable composting. Cascadia doing testing on compostability of selected materials in MTWS processes. <i>Work is proceeding – likely some results in December timeframe.</i> - Continue to work on supporting and communicating 'Green Events' guidelines, e.g. for 60th anniversary event. Successful Historic Bike Tour held as part of the event.
	<p>b. Monitor overall solid waste volumes relative to source reduction and longer-term 'zero waste' concepts & practices; (Owner: John)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate source reduction measure(s) into CAP - Support education and outreach v/v source reduction, zero-waste practices (e.g. participation in free-cycling networks, e-waste collection)
6	<p>Evaluate and recommend program options, and assist in implementing effective city programs restricting use of selected environmentally-harmful products. (Chris Keller, John Reed)</p>	
	<p>a. Engage in on-going analysis of program and implementation options v/v restricting use of expanded polystyrene and 'single use' plastic bags (Owner: Chris)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Los Altos participated in San Mateo County EIR process for 'Reusable Bags'; final EIR now ratified by San Mateo County. Larry Lind working this, scheduled on City Council agenda for Jan 8th. Still looking at Jan 2014 implementation J will forward info on next steps and when this will be placed on the CC agenda – likely Nov/December according to Jim G. - J maintaining dialog with staff on status of a potential EIR for EPS, and partnership options similar to San Mateo county for bags; currently, no potential EIR partnership opportunities have been identified; timing/approach for EPS uncertain at this point. - Support city development and implementation of restrictions on use of expanded polystyrene, plastic shopping bags, etc. as recommended by the Santa Clara County RWRC, and required by the Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Board. Environmental Commission will study potential recommendations, timing, and approach. <p>Notes: In January 2012, the EC subcommittee studying EPS met with Los Altos city engineer and staff to discuss perspectives on potential issues such as EPS ban enforceability, inspection, budgets, burden to merchants, etc; It turned out that banning EPS is part of a new Water Board requirement, related to trash load reduction in storm water outflows. City staff has prepared detailed recommendations, including an EPS ban, to meet the Water Board requirements of 40% load reduction by 2014.</p> <p>After a thorough discussion the EC voted to support staff's 'Baseline Trash Load and Short-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan' as written, with two additional recommendations. Firstly, the EPS ban be made effective 1/1/13, consistent with the original RWRC recommendation, and secondly, that the EPS ban</p>

		requires that replacement products are compostable or recyclable, consistent with the MTWS diversion program (also per the original RWRC recommendation).
7	Other Council goals as directed	
	a. City position on potential move at state level to relax CEQA guidelines?	- J talked with City Attorney re knowledge of this; in Jolene's queue; does not believe this is a relaxation, more of a clarification

General Comment from Council: If any programs require funding, case must be presented in time for annual budget cycle.

Miscellaneous Topics for Possible Discussion/Consideration TBD

- disposal of prescription drugs – police department will take; 'drugs and sharps' also collected elsewhere in the city, including some pharmacies?
- use of outdoor chemicals
- use of environmentally-friendly cleaning materials
- **monitor findings of quarry-related water discharges – Los Altos and LAH involved**



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM #7

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Environmental Commission Report to Council at Joint Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

Prepare report on 2012-2013 Achievements

BACKGROUND

Commissions meet with Council on an annual basis to review and discuss achievements for the year and set expectations for the up-coming year. This meeting is held after the reorganization of the Commission and the appointment and seating of new Commissioners in March. The date for this joint meeting with Council and Commissions is pending.

DISCUSSION

The Environmental Commission should convene discussion and preparation of its Achievement Report to Council for the joint Commissions and Council meetings.

Attachment

Please refer to Agenda Item 6 Attachment – 2012-2013 Work Plan



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 8

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: 2013 City Council Meeting Calendar

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and assign commissioners' attendance at 2013 Council meetings

BACKGROUND

The City of Los Altos Commission and Committee Handbook provides the following guidance with respect to Commissioners' responsibility for attending Council meetings.

Representing the Commission at Council Meetings

A member should represent each of the City Council-appointed Commissions at City Council Meetings when a Commission has an item of interest on the Council agenda. The purpose of this practice is to respond to questions from City Council members as necessary. When addressing the City Council, it is important to speak as a member of the Commission as a whole, rather than as an individual member. Should you be communicating your individual viewpoint on an issue, it is imperative that you first state that for the record. At all times Commissioners in the minority on an issue shall respect the decision and authority of the majority.

From time to time, there may be instances when the staff's recommendation on an issue may differ from that of the Commission. If this occurs, both recommendations are presented to the Council for their consideration.

DISCUSSION

Staff recommends that the Commissioner assigned attends the Council meeting in the event that an issue or question related to the jurisdiction of the Environmental Commission arises.

In the event, a Commissioner cannot attend the scheduled Council meeting, the Commissioner is to inform the staff liaison and seek a substitute Commissioner to attend in his/her absence.

Attachments:

1. 2013 City Council Meeting Attendance Assignments



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 10, 2012

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager, Staff Liaison to Environmental Commission

SUBJECT: 2013 City Council Meeting Attendance Assignments

Please sign up to attend Regular meetings of the City Council for 2013.

Regular Council Meeting Date:

Attendance by:

January 8, 2013	Joe Eyre
January 22, 2013	Gary Hedden
February 12, 2013	John Reed
February 26, 2013	Joe Eyre
March 12, 2013	Chris Keller
March 26, 2013	Joe Eyre
April 9, 2013	John Reed
April 23, 2013	John Reed
May 14, 2013	Chris Keller (is this correct, Chris?)
May 28, 2013	Don Bray
June 11, 2013	Gary Hedden
June 25, 2013	
July 9, 2013	
July 23, 2013	Gary Hedden
August 13, 2013	
August 27, 2013	
September 10, 2013	Don Bray
September 24, 2013	
October 8, 2013	
October 22, 2013	Don Bray
November 12, 2013	Chris Keller
November 26, 2013	
<u>December 10, 2013</u>	
→ (One regular meeting scheduled in December.)	

→ These meetings deviate from the regular 2nd and 4th Tuesday meeting schedule.

Joint meeting with Environmental Commission and City Council is _____, 2013.

- ❖ **Regular Council meeting are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.**
If you are unable to attend one of the City Council meeting to which you are assigned, please make arrangements for another commissioner to attend in your place. Also, please notify J. Logan at 947-2610, of the changes so the City Council agendas will accurately name the Environmental Commission representative.



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 9

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Increased Watershed Awareness and Stewardship in Los Altos

RECOMMENDATION:

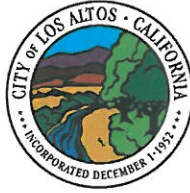
Receive staff update on watershed signage on creek projects

BACKGROUND

The Commission partners with Acterra, GreenTown Los Altos and the community to raise awareness and provide education about local creeks, clean-up efforts and water run-off in order to preserve local creek habitat and water quality. The Commission has expressed interest in creek identification signage that will inform the public of the name of the creeks at bridge crossing to promote information and pride in our local creeks and natural habitat.

DISCUSSION

The design of creek signage is being discussed by the Planning and Transportation Commission as part of bridge design and construction. There is no additional design information at this time.



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 10

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive update on potential charging station program

BACKGROUND

Plans for installation of electric vehicle charging stations are being developed through a grant process in coordination with Public Works and Community Development Departments. Next steps in the implementation of this program are being formulated utilizing internal staff services and resources. An electrical consultant has been retained to assist staff.

DISCUSSION

Engineering staff is now engaged in locating sites and scoping requirements for the installation project for electric vehicle charging stations. Updated information will be available pending the findings from Engineering.



DATE: January 14, 2013

AGENDA ITEM # 11

TO: Environmental Commission

FROM: J. Logan, Assistant City Manager and Staff Liaison

SUBJECT: Staff Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive Environmental Sustainability Report presented at Council Retreat on January 12, 2013

BACKGROUND

At the City Council Retreat on January 12, 2013, an agenda item for discussion of environmental sustainability efforts will be presented along with a report.

DISCUSSION

The Environmental Sustainability Report is attached and is also on the Council Agenda website at [Environmental sustainability efforts](#)

Attachments:

1. Environmental Sustainability



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

BACKGROUND

Environmental sustainability efforts are integrated throughout the City in various department functions primarily centered in Public Works, Engineering and the Community Development Departments. Many of these sustainability efforts are conducted through delivery methods such as franchise agreements with vendors, are in compliance with state and federal regulations or are connected with elective City efforts that preserve our natural resources and promote sustainability. With limited staff resources, partnerships and cooperative programs are leveraged with outside groups, non-profits and agencies to provide more robust environmental sustainability results.

DISCUSSION

Programs that have emerged in the City for environmental sustainability are as follows:

1. Cal Water service franchise delivers water to residential and commercial customers through the adoption of an Urban Water Management Plan that has sustainability components. The franchise provides, in conjunction with the City, water conservation and outreach programs to the users and follow-up methods for water over-use complaints from citizens.
2. Mission Trail Waste Systems (MTWS) franchise agreement provides for garbage pick-up service by natural gas-powered service vehicles for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and extensive garbage recycling and composting services to residents and commercial establishments. The target metric of 78% diversion of garbage was just achieved in 2012. This diversion rate exceeds State goals.
3. Plans for installation of electric vehicle charging stations are being developed through a grant process in coordination with Public Works and Community Development Departments. Next steps in the implementation of this program are being formulated utilizing internal staff services and resources.
4. The City's fleet utilizes one hybrid vehicle and one small electric maintenance vehicle not suitable for city driving but useful for Civic Center services. The City also utilizes solar power panels for various traffic control devices including flashing street signs and pedestrian crosswalks.
5. The City's project construction agreements and building permits require contractors to properly dispose of and recycle demolition materials such as sheetrock, asphalt, and lumber in residential and commercial projects to ensure these products are re-purposed and are not adding to landfills.

6. The Engineering Division complies with the Water Quality Control Board requirements for control of pollutants in storm water discharge of sediments, organic materials and litter. For example, a storm water trash collector device was recently installed on View Street because of its strategic location for collection of debris from storm water run-off from the downtown areas.
7. Each April, the City participates with citizens and local agencies in an 'Earth Day' creek clean-up event as part of the Santa Clara County Urban Run-Off Pollution Program addressing creek hot-spots on the Stevens Creek.
8. Acterra, through a service agreement with the City, conducts creek bank stabilization and restoration activities including removal of invasive plants and fosters the planting and restoration of natural habitat plants near Adobe Creek and the Redwood Grove environs.
9. The City utilizes a holistic Pest Management Program of beneficial products for rodent and pest management control.
10. Trees of Los Altos - through the City's Design Guidelines and design review process, street trees and buffer trees are preserved and installed where appropriate. This helps provide shade as a natural resource.
11. In 2007, the City became one of the first California Cities to adopt mandatory green building regulations. The Community Development Department developed a Green Building Program with mandatory requirements for residential and commercial construction. The Green Building Ordinance included requirements for energy conservation and efficiency, water conservation and building material sourcing and recycling. The Green building ordinance was adopted in November of 2007 and went into effect at the beginning of 2008. These requirements are implemented through the City's building permit process. In 2011, the City's Green Building Ordinance was amended to be consistent with the newly adopted State Green Building Codes (Cal Green). However, the City still goes above and beyond Cal Green since large additions and remodels (over 50%) are required to meet the Green Building requirements. It should also be noted that the City is a leader in Santa Clara County in solar installations per capita.

The City's General Plan supports sustainability, with goals and policies embedded in the General Plan's Housing Element and in the Conservation and Community Facilities Element, thus complying with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

12. Los Altos Climate Action Plan - State Assembly Bill 32 requires public agencies in California to implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to year 1990 levels by 2020. While the great majority of this responsibility rests with the State and regional air quality boards, cities also need to have a plan in place that addresses carbon emissions when planning for programs and facilities and when issuing permits. A Climate Action Plan (CAP) is the policy document that provides the framework to achieve those goals. As part of the FY 2011/12 budget, the City Council approved a staff-initiated capital project to prepare a CAP. On November 8, 2011, the City Council awarded Pacific Municipal Consultants (PMC) with a contract to prepare a CAP for the City of Los Altos.

Over the past nine months, staff has been working with PMC and the Environmental Commission to prepare the CAP. This includes preparation of an inventory of the City's existing GHG emissions (both for municipal operations and community-wide), a calculation of the City's anticipated emissions into the future, a summary of State legislation and how it will reduce City emissions, and an evaluation of how existing City policies (Green Building Ordinance, waste diversion, Bike Master Plan, etc.) are also reducing City emissions. In March 2013, staff will be providing Council with a preliminary draft of the CAP and an outline of the range of policies that can be used to achieve compliance with AB 32.

13. The Environmental Commission's 2012 Work Plan was approved by Council and addressed sustainability programs in: 1) natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos; 2) Climate Action Plan (CAP); 3) watershed stewardship; 4) water conservation; 5) solid waste diversion and source reduction practices; 6) restriction of use of selected environmentally harmful products.

The Commission proceeded to foster environment sustainability programs during 2012 as summarized below:

- a. **Natural resource conservation and environmental quality in Los Altos**

The Commission redesigned and reorganized the content in the Environmental Commission website on the City's commission webpage. Knowing that a major redesign of the City site was planned, the Commission undertook this project as a temporary solution with the expectation that the Environmental website will be blended under the City site once the site is constructed. The introductory statement on the Commission website states the purpose as:

The City of Los Altos Environmental Commission has designed this site to inform and educate the community about local programs and initiatives that support the environment and to provide information about resources available throughout Santa Clara County and the Bay Area.

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions please feel free to contact environmental@losaltosca.gov. Enjoy!

The Environmental Commission seeks to maintain the website with relevant, high-value content, in a manner that is visually pleasing, navigates well, and ties into the City website. The Commission monitors website hits and has seen an increase of viewership during the year. Website content areas are:

- Recycling
- Hazardous Waste Disposal
- Greening an Event
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Green Building
- Alternatives in Transportation
- Water Conservation
- Storm Water Protection
- Sustainable Eating

Landscaping with Native Plants
Tree Protection
Local Creeks
About the Commission
City of Los Altos

Public Education and Outreach - In addition to the website, the Commission determines topics and opportunities for approved public forums related to sustainability. An example of public outreach activities were public forums held prior to the award of the waste disposal contract and a study to determine both Municipal and Community Green House Gas emissions for the City. Current outreach efforts include the design and analysis of a survey to the community to facilitate and gain public input for the Los Altos Climate Action Plan and coordination with the Climate Action Plan consultant firm and with Community Development staff.

b. Climate Action Plan (CAP)

In coordination with the Community Development Department and consultant firm PMC, an Environmental Commission Subcommittee is developing, reviewing, and facilitating data analysis that was collected through citizen surveys conducted last summer on transportation habits and household energy usage. This information will help focus on policies that are best suited for Los Altos. The Subcommittee is also continuing to work with staff and the consultant to identify the goals, policies and programs in the CAP that will help the community achieve between a 15% and 25% reduction from community's 2005 baseline GHG emissions. This effort includes gathering input from community organizations such as GreenTown Los Altos.

The role of the Commission is to: 1) provide input and policy recommendations on reduction targets, measures and level of ambition; 2) identify issues and opportunities and evaluate feasibilities; 3) provide a forum for community participation.

c. Watershed stewardship

The Commission partners with Acterra, GreenTown Los Altos and the community to raise awareness and provide education about local creeks, clean-up efforts and water runoff in order to preserve local creek habitat and water quality. The Commission has expressed interest in creek identification signage that will inform the public of the name of the creeks at bridge crossing to promote information and pride in our local creeks and natural habitat.

d. Water conservation

On June 9, 2009, Council approved water conservation measures and on June 23, 2009 adopted a resolution to reduce water consumption by 15% a year based on 2004 data. The Commission implemented activities for public outreach and education to promote water conservation efforts. The Commission also partnered with Cal Water to gather water data usage specific to the City of Los Altos. A water usage dashboard is being developed by the Commission to further public information on water consumption.

e. Solid waste diversion and source reduction practices

The Commission held a series of public forums and activities to support the contracting efforts for a new garbage service vendor. MTWS presents reports on a semi-annual schedule to the City/Commission regarding progress, activities and diversion metrics. The Commission visited Newby Island to view and learn about the composting programs and landfill diversion opportunities.

Programs to support recycling, waste reduction efforts and greening of events are planned accordingly often in conjunction with public outreach efforts with GreenTown Los Altos, the Chamber and Acterra.

f. Restriction of use of selected environmentally harmful products

The Commission supports City development of policies to restrict the use of plastic bags and expanded polystyrene (EPS) and has provided Council with recommendations to hasten the control of these materials for reduction of trash and harmful effects on the environment. Once policy is set by Council, the Commission will assist staff in the public education and outreach efforts.

Opportunities for the future

Since the City does not have dedicated staff assigned to specifically support environmental sustainability programs, various departments coordinate efforts to achieve these goals. The Environmental Commission supports these efforts, provides public outreach and education and suggests ideas for consideration. The partnerships with Acterra, Cal Water, MTWS, the Chamber and GreenTown Los Altos also support and influences emerging programs for environmental sustainability. Adoption of a Climate Action Plan will further strengthen the various environmental and sustainability efforts outlined above and bring them all together under the umbrella of one uniform policy document that can provide greater coordination, organization and efficiency in execution. Future goals and policies that could result from the Climate Action Plan include:

1. Incremental replacement of the City standard car fleet with hybrid and/or energy efficient/low emission cars when vehicles have reached the end of functional use. Due to public safety requirements, this would not be applicable to emergency vehicles unless future technology provides better alternatives.
2. Use and installation of electric power charging stations at City facilities and parking lots, and as part of new development on private property.
3. Development and expansion of a comprehensive network of safe pedestrian and bike pathways to encourage alternative modes of transportation when traveling about the City.
4. Further encouragement and/or incentives to promote installation of new photovoltaic panels to offset and reduce the energy usage of new development.
5. Increase planting of native trees along public streets, along riparian (creek) corridors and on private property.
6. Policy and implementation of restrictions on plastic bags and EPS in coordination with the County and surrounding agencies.